

# *Outdoor Warning Sirens*

*Emergency preparedness information from  
Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security*

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## **What to do when you hear the sirens**

Outdoor warning sirens across Franklin County will sound loudly whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for the county.

A tornado warning is issued when a tornado is in the area. A tornado is one of nature's most violent windstorms.

The sirens will sound for three minutes and be silent for seven minutes. This sequence will repeat as long as the warning is in effect.

**SEEK SHELTER:** The sirens warn people who are outside to seek shelter in the basement of a building. If there is no basement, you should go to the lowest floor of the building, where the safest place is an interior room with no windows. The next safest place is under the stairs or a heavy table.

Once you are in a

safe place, monitor a battery-powered radio or weather alert radio for more information.

Avoid unsafe places such as mobile homes or manufactured homes; highway underpasses; buildings with large, flat roofs; and elevators.

**WEEKLY TESTS:** The sirens are tested each Wednesday

at noon in fair weather to make sure they are working properly. They are sounded two times for twenty seconds each.

Since the sirens can also transmit spoken messages for other types of emergencies, such as hazardous-materials warnings, they also undergo a voice test on the first Wednesday of the month.

To avoid confusion, the sirens are not tested during severe weather or if severe weather is expected.

The sirens make up one of the largest outdoor warning systems in Ohio. Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security is the local government agency responsible for the management and activation of the sirens.

The sirens are part of a warning system that also includes NOAA weather alert radios and the media.



Sirens warn people who are outside to seek shelter and turn on a battery-powered radio or NOAA weather alert radio.